

I claim:

1. A modular prosthetic component for use in a prosthetic limb and for being connected to a first prosthetic component and to a second prosthetic component, said modular prosthetic component comprising:

5 A. a first end threaded to selectably receive a first prosthetic component and to hold the first prosthetic component in a selected position relative to said first end;

B. a second end threaded to selectably receive a second prosthetic component and to hold the second prosthetic component in a selected position relative to said second end; and

10 C. a main body being between said first end and said second end and having a selected length,

wherein the distance between the first prosthetic component connected to said first end and the second prosthetic component connected to said second end partially corresponds to said selected length of said main body.

15 2. The modular prosthetic component of Claim 1 wherein the distance between the first prosthetic component and the second prosthetic component is adjustable by selectably twisting at least one of the first prosthetic component relative to said first end to a third selected position and the second prosthetic component relative to said second end to a fourth selected position, respectively.

20 3. The modular prosthetic component of Claim 1 wherein said first end further comprises a first clamp for holding the first prosthetic component in the first selected position and said second end further comprises a second clamp for holding the second prosthetic component in the second selected position.

4. A modular prosthetic component for use in a prosthetic limb and for being connected to a first prosthetic component and to a second prosthetic component, said modular prosthetic component comprising:

A. a first end threaded to be selectively received by a first prosthetic

5 component and be held in a first position relative to the first prosthetic component;

B. a second end threaded to be selectively received by a second prosthetic component and be held in a second position relative to the second prosthetic component; and

C. a main body being between said first end and said second end and having  
10 a selected length,

wherein the distance between the first prosthetic component connected to said first end and the second prosthetic component connected to said second end partially corresponds to said selected length of said main body.

5. The modular prosthetic component of Claim 4 wherein the distance between the  
15 first prosthetic component and the second prosthetic component is adjustable by selectably twisting at least one of the first prosthetic component relative to said first end to a third selected position and the second prosthetic component relative to said second end to a fourth selected position, respectively.

6. The modular prosthetic component of Claim 4 wherein said first end is lockable  
20 in place relative to the first prosthetic component by a clamp of the first prosthetic component and the second end is lockable in place relative to the second prosthetic component by a clamp of the second prosthetic component.

7. A modular prosthetic component for use in a prosthetic limb and for being connected to a first prosthetic component and a second prosthetic component, said modular prosthetic component comprising:

A. a first end comprising first threads for being twistably connected to a first  
5 prosthetic component;

B. a second end comprising second threads for being twistably connected to a second prosthetic component; and

C. a main body between said first end and said second end,  
wherein a prosthetic limb comprising a first prosthetic component, said modular  
10 prosthetic component and a second prosthetic component has an effective length that is adjustable by selectively twisting at least one of the first prosthetic component relative to said first end and the second prosthetic component relative to said second end.

8. The modular prosthetic component of Claim 7 wherein:

A. said first end is externally threaded and the first prosthetic component is  
15 internally threaded to enable said first end to be twistably connected thereto; and

B. said second end is externally threaded and the second component is internally threaded to enable said second end to be twistably connected thereto.

9. The modular prosthetic component of Claim 7 wherein:

A. said first end is internally threaded and the first prosthetic component is  
20 externally threaded to enable said first end to be twistably connected thereto; and

B. said second end is internally threaded and the second component is externally threaded to enable said second end to be twistably connected thereto.

10. A prosthetic limb comprising:

- A. a first prosthetic component connectable to a socket;
- B. a sleeve module with a main body connected to said first prosthetic component;
- C. a spacer module with a main body connected to said sleeve module; and
- 5 D. a second prosthetic component connected to said spacer module and adapted to be connected to a prosthetic foot,

wherein said prosthetic limb has an adjustable effective length and said effective length is adjusted by selectively twisting said spacer module one of towards or away from full engagement with said sleeve module.

- 10 11. The prosthetic limb of Claim 10 wherein said effective length of said prosthetic limb is further adjustable by:

- A. selectively twisting said sleeve module one of towards or away from full engagement with said first prosthetic component; and

- 15 B. selectively twisting said spacer module one of towards or away from full engagement with said second prosthetic component.

12. The prosthetic limb of Claim 10 wherein said sleeve module has a first selected length and the effective length of said prosthetic limb can be adjusted by interchanging a second sleeve module having a second length for said sleeve module having a first selected length.

- 20 13. The prosthetic limb of Claim 10 wherein said spacer module has a first selected length and the effective length of said prosthetic limb can be adjusted by interchanging a second spacer module having a second length for said spacer module having a first length.

14. A modular prosthetic limb comprising:

- A. a first prosthetic component connected to a socket;
- B. a second prosthetic component connected to a prosthetic foot; and
- C. a module having a selected length and being interchangeably threadably

5 connected to said first prosthetic component and said second prosthetic component,

wherein the effective length of said modular prosthetic limb partially corresponds to said selected length of said module.

15. The modular prosthetic limb of Claim 14 wherein said module is a sleeve module.

16. The modular prosthetic limb of Claim 14 wherein said module is a spacer module.

10 17. The modular prosthetic limb of Claim 14 wherein said effective length of said modular prosthetic limb is adjustable by twisting said module one of towards and away from full engagement with at least one of said first prosthetic component and said second prosthetic component.

18. The modular prosthetic limb of Claim 14 wherein said effective length of said  
15 modular prosthetic limb is adjustable by interchanging said module having a selected length with a second module with a second selected length.

19. A method of adjusting the effective length of a prosthetic limb comprising the steps of:

A. providing a prosthetic limb having a socket, a first prosthetic component  
20 connected to the socket, a first module having a first selected length and being threadably connected to the first prosthetic component, a second prosthetic component threadably connected to the module; and

B. twisting the module relative to at least one of the first prosthetic component and the second prosthetic component one of towards and away from full engagement therewith to respectively one of decrease and increase the effective length of the prosthetic limb.

5 20. The method of Claim 19 wherein the step of twisting the module relative to at least one of the first prosthetic component and the second prosthetic component comprises the step of twisting the module relative to both the first prosthetic component and the second prosthetic component.

21. The method of Claim 19 further comprising the step of interchanging the first  
10 module having the first selected length with a second module having a second selected length.

22. The method of Claim 19 wherein the step of providing a module comprises the step of providing a sleeve module.

23. The method of Claim 19 wherein the step of providing a module comprises the  
15 step of providing a spacer module.

24. A method of adjusting the effective length of a prosthetic limb to be equal to the length of a natural limb, said method comprising the steps of:

A. providing a prosthetic limb comprising a socket, a first prosthetic component connected to the socket, a first module having a first selected length and  
20 being connected to the first prosthetic component, and a second prosthetic component connected to the first module and for being connected to a prosthetic foot;

B. observing the effective length of the prosthetic limb and comparing the effective length of the prosthetic limb to the length of a natural limb;

C. interchanging a second module having a second selected length for the first module having a first selected length; and

D. observing the effective length of the prosthetic limb to verify that the effective length of the prosthetic limb is generally equal to the length of the natural limb.

5 25. The method of Claim 24 wherein the step of providing a second prosthetic component connected to the first module and for being connected to a prosthetic foot comprises the step of providing a second prosthetic component for being indirectly connected to a prosthetic foot.

26. The method of Claim 24 wherein the step of providing a module comprises the  
10 step of providing a sleeve module.

27. The method of Claim 24 wherein the step of providing a module comprises the step of providing a spacer module.

28. The method of Claim 24 further comprising the step of twisting the module in relation to at least one of the first prosthetic component and the second prosthetic  
15 component in order to adjust the effective length of the prosthetic limb so that the effective length of the prosthetic limb is generally equal to the length of the prosthetic limb.

29. A longitudinally adjustable prosthetic limb having an effective length and comprising:

20 A. a first prosthetic component connected to a socket;

B. a second prosthetic component connected to a prosthetic foot;

C. a module for interconnecting said first prosthetic component and said second prosthetic component; and

D. means for making longitudinal adjustments to the effective length of the prosthetic limb absent any permanent modifications to said module.

30. The longitudinally adjustable prosthetic limb of Claim 29 wherein:

A. said first prosthetic component has a first threaded end;

5 B. said second prosthetic component has a second threaded end;

C. said module has a first module threaded end for being threadably connected to said first prosthetic component and has a second module threaded end for being threadably connected to said second prosthetic component; and

D. said means for making longitudinal adjustments comprises at least one of  
10 twisting said first prosthetic component relative to said module and twisting said second prosthetic component relative to said module in respective directions one of towards and away from full engagement with said module.

31. The longitudinally adjustable prosthetic component of Claim 30 wherein said first module threaded end is externally threaded and said second module threaded end is  
15 externally threaded.

32. The longitudinally adjustable prosthetic component of Claim 30 wherein said first module threaded end is internally threaded and said second module threaded end is internally threaded.

33. The longitudinally adjustable prosthetic limb of Claim 29 wherein:

20 A. said module is removably connected to said first prosthetic component and said second prosthetic component; and



B. said means for making longitudinal adjustments comprises providing a second module having a different size than said module and replacing said module with said second module.